

WARRIOR LEADER

Volume 8, Number 2

Operation Warrior Forge

Fort Lewis, Wash.

July 9, 2004

Cadets set their sights on success

INSIDE:

**Shooting for Expert
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Make a strong commitment to Safety

Safety is the end state of enforced standards and the application of risk management. Your personal commitment to safety is paramount in all training we conduct this summer. Do not accept unnecessary risk and weigh the potential benefits of your actions against the potential loss.

This summer we are training the future leadership of the Army, the future of America's Army rests with the cadets we lead and train everyday. We must establish a training environment

that requires performing to standards but without taking reckless and needless risk.

Our cadets are highly motivated and have demonstrated that they have the attributes to overcome great difficulties to achieve success. They will meet the challenges we set for them. Your responsibility is to clearly define the challenges, the standards for success and the risks we are willing to accept to achieve our goals.

We can achieve this balance

through the use of sound risk management. Use and encourage the use of risk management. Risk management allows our junior leaders to develop and practice initiative and innovation.

Mentor, lead and motivate our cadets through your personal involvement in safety. Your continued leadership and personal involvement will make a difference.

Train Hard, Train to Standard, Train Safely. Safety Begins With You.
-Warrior Forge Safety Office

The Purest Democracy

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dennis Beck-Berman
3rd and 5th Regimental Chaplain

On June 14 we celebrated Flag Day - 59 years after the end of World War II. A truly memorable moment during that war for all Americans was the raising of the U. S. flag atop Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima. It was after the island finally fell on March 16, 1945 that Rabbi Roland Gittlesohn delivered his memorial sermon, entitled "The Purest Democracy," one of the most moving and famous battlefield dedications to the fallen.

Ironically, it was not delivered at the dedication of the Fifth Marine Division Cemetery, because nearly all the division's Protestant and Catholic chaplains threatened to boycott the ceremony with their men if the Jewish chaplain gave the sermon.

In order to avoid a controversy that might endanger the senior chaplain's military career, Rabbi Gittlesohn asked to be relieved of his assignment. He then delivered the sermon to the Jewish marines. Two Christian chaplains who were furious at the prejudice of their colleagues attended the Jewish ceremony. Moved by the rabbi's words, one chaplain borrowed a copy of the sermon and secretly had it mimeographed and distributed.

"This is perhaps the grimmest, and surely the holiest task we have faced since D-Day. Here before us lie the bodies of comrades and friends. Men who until yesterday or last week

laughed with us, joked with us and trained with us. Men who were on the same ships with us, and went over the sides with us as we prepared to hit the beaches of this island. Men who fought with us and feared with us."

"Somewhere in this plot of ground there may lie the man who could have discovered the cure for cancer. Under one of those Christian crosses, or beneath a Jewish Star of David, there may rest now a man who was destined to be a great prophet ... to find the way, perhaps, for all to live in plenty, with poverty and hardship for none. Now they lie here silently in this sacred soil, and we gather to consecrate this earth in their memory"

"Here lie the men who loved America because their ancestors generations ago helped in her founding and other men who loved her with equal passion because they themselves or their own fathers escaped from oppression to her blessed shores. Here lie officers and men, Negroes and whites, rich men and poor ... together. Here lie Protestants, Catholics and Jews ... together."

"Here no man prefers another because of his faith or despises him because of his color. Here there are no quotas of how many from each group are admitted or allowed. Among these men there is no discrimination. No prejudice. No hatred. Their's is the highest and purest democracy."

"Too much blood has gone into this soil for us to let it lie barren. Too much pain and heartache have fertilized the earth on which we stand.

We here solemnly swear: This shall not be in vain! Out of this and from the suffering and sorrow of those who mourn this, will come - we promise - the birth of a new freedom for the sons of men everywhere. Amen"

Today, over a half-century later, such an event would never occur. Army Regulations explicitly require chaplains to respect and work with personnel of all faiths. Nevertheless, prejudice itself cannot be conquered by regulations.

America is a land of considerable racial, ethnic and religious diversity. We must not confuse mere tolerance with mutual respect. Too many Americans misunderstand programs that celebrate the contributions of special groups or raise our consciousness about discrimination. For example, many people think that anti-semitism or Holocaust Remembrance is of interest only to Jews. But it is not Jews who perpetrate and perpetuate anti-semitism! The lessons of the Holocaust are for all people, but especially for non-Jews, since the ones who committed, accepted or ignored the Nazi crimes were primarily non-Jews.

Americans must understand that unless every citizen is free, then none are free - unless every person's religious freedom is preserved, then no one's rights are truly protected. Today our country, its Armed Forces and its Chaplaincy have become, thank God, a purer democracy.



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Col. Steven R. Corbett

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Forging the way in diversity

Maj. Carol L. Strong
Warrior Forge Phase I PAO

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman's Executive Order #9981 marked the end of a segregated military in the United States of America. Since that time, the United States Army has led the way in diversifying its fighting forces. As a result, a direct parallel can be made between the general public's attitude about minorities and women in our American society and military policies on diversity. In the tradition of our forefathers, Warrior Forge continues to "Forge the Way in Diversity" in our military by ensuring our future leaders receive unprecedented training in the value of diversity on a team.

Today at Warrior Forge 2004, the command has assembled a dynamic team of Equal Opportunity Officers from as far away as Fort Huachuca in Arizona to Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. While there are some who may think that the EO team is here to keep a watchful eye on everything they do, their main focus here at Warrior Forge is to be a "motivational team" that helps the cadets and cadre gel together as a team, squad, platoon, company and as one Army.

Such a team is needed here at Warrior Forge because some of our cadets attend colleges and universities that are drawn primarily from one segment of our population. For example, many military colleges are attended predominately by males. Moreover, there are Historically



Members of the Warrior Forge Equal Opportunity team are (left to right) Sgts. 1st Class Michael Dill, Fort Jackson, S. C., Armando Viera, from Fort Huachuca, Az., Evelyn A. Hearne, Fort Benning, Ga., Tuan D. Nguyen, Fort Knox, Ky., Michael D. Ledford of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Modesto A. Delgado-Moura, from Fort Lee, Va. and Peggy A. McCormick, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities where the student body might be 95% or greater of African American or Hispanic students, respectively. Additionally, some of the ROTC programs in Cadet Command lack diversity even though the university has a diversified population. The lack of diversity in these ROTC programs does not spell disaster, in fact, EO team members like Sgt. 1st Class Evelyn A. Hearne observed that, "Cadets are able to assimilate even though they are different." And, as noted by Sgt. 1st Class Modesto A. Delgado-Moura, "Those differences don't make you better [or less] than anyone." They just make you different. Thus it is the mission of the LDAC EO team to provide cadre and cadets with tools that will allow them to achieve the goals and missions of


their organization.

On Days-2 and 4 of each regiment, this motivational team spends 90 minutes with each regiment's cadre and each platoon. The team discusses rules of engagement with cadre and they conduct very candid conversations with cadets about interacting with their "battle buddy." Sgt. 1st Class Michael Dill is steadfast in his belief that "the leadership (cadre) determines the attitude of the cadets." He said "We can't wait until commissioning to start developing lieutenants, we can start training cadets now." Dill and the members of the EO team have perfected their ability to generate interactive play with the cadets, which yields great feedback from cadets on every topic. In this type of environment, Sgt. 1st Class Peggy A. McCormick says that "Cadets teach themselves. They understand examples from their peers."

McCormick acknowledges that change may take some time, but by making the cadets aware of stereotypes and biases, you have provided fundamental tools for the individual to utilize in the future.

One of the fundamental tools required to develop a great team is communication. Sgt. 1st Class Tuan D. Nguyen says it best; "The more you communicate, the better your team." By his estimate, leaders spend as much as 80% of their time communicating with their team. And as, Sgt. 1st Class Michael D. Ledford said, "A team beats a group of individuals every time." If you don't believe this concept, just ask the Los Angeles Lakers, who recently lost the NBA Championship to the Detroit Pistons, who played great "team" ball.

On the days that the EO team is not conducting formal classes, they are out observing training conducted by the regiments. They are observing cadet and cadre interactions, ensuring that the team concept is permeated through training. "If cadets only seek out persons who look like themselves," Ledford says, "then they have missed something. They have missed the bigger picture."

Sgt First Class Armando Viera, summed it all up best when he said, "training the cadets now is important, because in just a few short years when I'm the First Sergeant, some of these cadets will be in my unit as lieutenants." 

Cadets are up the creek at the Confidence Course

By Rebekah Courson

"Thank God for the glory of it," was what 1st Regiment Cadet James Person from Arkansas State University said after going down the Slide for Life. The Log Walk/Rope Drop and the Slide for Life is a part of the Confidence Course Training that not only gave cadets a chance to overcome their fears and build confidence but to have fun.

"This was the funnest committee I have ever been on," said Master Sgt. Jose Flores, the Slide for Life NCOIC. Not only was the slide described as a roller coaster, but the instructors kept cadets entertained by having them sound off with their favorite songs while climbing the tower. After a safety and purpose briefing, cadets then experienced a practice log walk.

"The practice board is smaller then the one they walk across so it's easier when they get up there," Flores said.

Every cadet's ability to hold themselves in a pull-up position for 10 seconds is tested for



Missing from LDAC for several years, an all-new Slide For Life was built in time for last year's training.


safety reasons. Each cadet then walks across a board, ranger crawled across a wire, and held themselves in a pull-up position 37 feet above a lake before dropping into the water below. Then they go down the Slide for Life from a 57-foot tower.

"It's terrifying the first time," Flores said. "You have to overcome your fears."

This part of the Confidence Course really emphasized the cadets conquering their anxieties

"I'm very scared of heights," 3rd Regiment Cadet Catherine Texidor from Campbell University said before completing the course. "I've talked to other people who did it that are afraid of heights and they said it's not as bad as it seems." Other parts of the Confidence Course, though, helped prepare the cadets for this site.

"I did a bunch of confidence training yesterday, so if I can do all that, then I can do this," 3rd Regiment Cadet Kendra Fejedelem from Georgetown University said before completing the course. For the cadets who were nervous before completing the course, the Slide for Life and Log Walk/Rope Drop was an accomplishment.

"I'm glad I did it," 1st Regiment Cadet Elizabeth Birch from the University of Massachusetts said. "If you can do it then you can do anything." 

Aiming for Expert

Cadets shoot for top score at Basic Rifle Marksmanship



Putting all the preparatory training into action, a cadet pounds out the rounds with his M-16A2 rifle at the Qualification Range. If he scores between 36 and 40 hits out of 40 targets, he is an Expert.

**Story and photos by
2nd Lt. Stephan Arnold**

Of all the events a cadet must pass in order to complete Warrior Forge 2004, many consider Basic Rifle Marksmanship the most exciting. As before, every cadet must qualify with the M-16A2 rifle, but this year a couple new tasks were added. The regular classes include: safety briefings, dime-washer drill, shadow-box, and, for remedial purposes, the Weaponeer simulator. Two new classes are Nuclear, Biological and Chemical firing, plus night firing.

The eighth and ninth day of training start out with safety briefings about firing on the range, after which groups of cadets are broken down into various stations. The Dime-Washer drill is used to help cadets practice their trigger squeeze. Cadets place a dime or machine washer on the barrel of the M-16 and dry-fire their weapon. A slight pull on the trigger squeeze can knock off the Dime-Washer, indicating that it was an incorrect trigger squeeze. A correct trigger squeeze will leave the disc remaining on the end of the barrel.

Another station is Shadow-Box. This station is used to help cadets maintain the same sight picture when looking down the sights of the M-16. Cadets assume a prone shooting position behind a stationary weapon. They look down to a target and tell their battle buddy to move that target to the center mass of the target. After doing so, they will relax and retake their position and repeat the process. The object is to maintain a consistent sight to the target's center of mass.

The next station is Weaponeer. Weaponeer is a video game designed to work on the fundamentals of shooting: steady position, aiming, breathing, and trig-



The Shadow Box aids in sight picture training.

ger squeeze. When cadets take aim and fire at the television screen, the video game rates each fundamental and lets the cadet know what they are doing wrong. This will help the cadet correct many of their faults without even firing a live round.

When all the training is finished, cadets step up to the Zeroing Range to zero the sights of their M-16s. Every cadet must produce a shot group with each bullet hole within a 4-centimeter circle. Once that is attained, cadets will move on to the Qualification Range.


The Qualification Range is the last stop for the day. Cadets put all the knowledge gained in the previous stations into several minutes of shooting pop-up targets ranging from 50m to 300m distance. A perfect score is 40 hits out of 40 targets, which is in the Expert category. This is what every cadet strives for. If a per-



The long green line of cadets are mentored at every station by experienced trainers from the U. S. Army Reserve.

fect score is not reached, categories remaining are Marksman (23/40), Sharpshooter (30/40), and Expert (36/40).

The two newly-added events for Warrior Forge 2004 are the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical shooting and night shooting. Cadets are required to don their NBC protective masks and shoot the M-16. Afterwards, they get to shoot tracers on the Night Fire Range. Lt. Col. David Solley of West Virginia University, who is the officer in charge of BRM said, "It is a good familiarization to learn to fire in an NBC environment and fire at night with tracers."

BRM is an important part of Warrior Forge 2004. It encompasses the critical skills and knowledge of a weapon that all leaders must know and be able to utilize. "Leaders must know how to use their weapons," said Solley. This way, once they become officers and lead their own troops, the cadets will not only be proficient with their personal weapon, but also be able to teach their Soldiers as well. 

Cadets keep their confidence on course

By Rebekah Courson

The Confidence Course is a two-day event meant for Warrior Forge cadets to build confidence in themselves, their peers and the equipment they use.

The course is organized so half of each regiment is at the Rope Bridge, Rappel, and Slide for Life sites and the other half is at the Confidence Course and Obstacle Course site. The following day, the groups switch sites.

One of the sites on the course is Rappelling. Cadets are briefed on proper safety procedures, body positio and rappelling, then given two rappel demonstrations, one safe and one unsafe, from a 37-foot tower.

Not all of the rappel training is serious, though. The site staff make the safety and training



Done properly, rapelling can be a big letdown.



Getting through the Confidence Course involves transversing quite an array of obstacles, like these concrete culvert pipes that lead to nowhere except the next challenge.

speech more entertaining with a character they call “Cadet No-Go.” Cadet No-Go showed the cadets how *not* to rappel and demonstrated what happens when a cadet lacks confidence.

Cadets must first rappel down a 17- foot inclined wall, a 17-foot tower and then 37-foot tower to complete training at the site.

Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Taylor, NCOIC of the Rappel site, said the point of rappelling is for cadets to build confidence in themselves, confidence in the equipment and teamwork. It is also meant to help cadets overcome their fears.

“Some are afraid of heights,” Rappel Master Sgt. Cliffin Ronald said. “Even if they’re not afraid of heights, most won’t just jump off.”

Encouragement from other cadets also helped those who needed it. First Regiment Cadet Alan Vagor from the University of Texas – Austin said some of the cadets were a bit nervous before doing the rappel. He also said confidence from other cadets influenced those who were nervous. For the cadets who had rappelled before, this time was more enjoyable.

“It was more exciting and fun and not as scary,” 3rd Regiment Cadet Sarah Gilman from the University of Wisconsin-Madison said.

A second site in the Confidence Course is the Rope Bridge. This site requires cadets to construct and negotiate a one-rope bridge and then cross a three-rope bridge on the Sequatchew Creek. The purpose of the Rope Bridge site was to build cadet confidence, instill teamwork and help them overcome any fear of heights and water.

Master Sgt. Steve Kolb, the NCOIC of the Rope Bridge, said a cadet’s ability to construct and negotiate a rope bridge was a common military skill. He said cadets must be able to

implement new skills needed as future leaders.

The cadets are first shown how to construct a one-rope bridge and then given a brief lesson on the knot tying required to construct the bridge and what’s called a Swiss seat.

Each squad has a dry practice run at building a bridge and are then timed while constructing and crossing a one-rope bridge over water. The cadets then return to the near side of the creek by crossing a three-rope bridge. They understood the importance of mastering the one-rope bridge.

“It gives you confidence in yourself and working with your squad,” 1st Regiment Cadet Jillian Skiff from the University of Illinois said. “You can’t complete it if you don’t have teamwork.”

The third site in the course is the Confidence and Obstacle Courses. The Confidence Course section of the site is meant to help build more individual confidence, while the Obstacle Course strengthens teamwork and communication within a squad. The cadets use physical and mental strength to successfully conquer each obstacle.

The site is organized so three platoons are on the Confidence Course and the fourth platoon is on the Obstacle Course. Then, about every 50 minutes, the platoons rotate until each completes both courses.

The obstacles have cadets crawling under barbwire, climbing up a rope and rolling across logs on their stomachs. The most difficult obstacle, though, varies between cadets.

“There are a lot of easy ones, a couple of tough ones, but not too many in the middle,” said 4rth Regiment Cadet Tony Meloni from

Northeastern University.

For some cadets the most difficult obstacle was the one they least expected. Third Regiment Cadet Randy Michael from Georgia Southern University said a lot of the obstacles were mental and when you underestimated an obstacle, that was when it was difficult. The Obstacle Course also tests the cadets’ abilities and confidence.

“You’re going from obstacle to obstacle without stopping and it’s fairly long,” 1st Regiment Cadet Perry Morton from Eastern Kentucky University said. The course has cadets doing similar obstacles as on the Confidence Course and each squad is timed.

Sgt. 1st Class Juan Rodriguez, the NCOIC of the Obstacle Course, said the average time is 10 minutes after penalties. He also said the Tough One was the most difficult because it took the most time. The time from the Obstacle Course is also important because it’s combined with the squad’s One-Rope Bridge time and the best time in each company is given the streamer for the Confidence Course.

“It’s only tough because it’s timed,” Lund said. “You’re trying to beat your buddy’s time and the goal is to get the coveted streamer.”

The fourth site is the Log Walk/Rope Drop



A high point of the day is dropping 37 feet from the Log Walk/Rope Drop into a lake.

and Slide for Life where cadets must overcome their fear of heights and water. The goal of the entire Confidence Course is for cadets to believe in their physical and mental abilities and trust them along with their peers.



Branch Orientation offers all the officers' options

Andrew Van Den Hoek

On an overcast day two weeks ago the first set of Warrior Forge regiments took to a tent filled field for their Branch Orientation day. For many cadets, this is the day that helps them make a decision that they will carry with them for the rest of the military careers.

Branch Orientation gives cadets at Warrior Forge the opportunity to learn from, and ask questions of, officers who are currently serving in each of the various branches of the Army. These officers, in turn, are able to explain to the cadets what they find rewarding about working in their particular branch and what cadets can expect if they find themselves serving that branch.

The day begins with an introduction, orientation, and safety briefing pertaining to the Branch Orientation field. Next, each of the branches is called out, along with the name of one of the branch presenters who is lined up with the others in front of the regimental formations.

As each branch is announced, a wave of cadets, with that branch first on their list, charges like a herd towards that presenter, usually coming to a screeching halt just a few feet from the officer. The presenter then guides the cadets to their first branch briefing of the day.

Periodically throughout the day a horn sounds off signaling the cadets to move to the next station on their list. This continues until it's time for them to return to their regimental formations and march back to their barracks.

For some cadets Branch Orientation is an opportunity to gain a new perspective on a branch, but for many, it strengthens ideas they already have.

"Being able to talk to the Cav guys really reinforced what I thought about Armor," Michael Kummerer of Xavier University said.

Some significant changes have been made to this year's Branch Orientation. One is the inclusion of stations and briefings by three branches that cadets don't have the

option of immediately joining after commissioning. The Chaplain corps and the Judge Advocate General corps are branches that require an educational delay in order to gain the necessary schooling to be placed into them.

Cadets wishing to branch into Special Forces must first serve in one of the other 16 Army branches then apply for the training and evaluation process needed to become an SF officer.

The second important change was the addition of a rotation in the branch briefing schedule which allows cadets to go to whatever branch briefing they would like.

"Being able to go to one of the branches that looked interesting but wasn't on our list was really informative," said Scott Webb of the Marion Military Institute.


During the question and answer periods cadets asked a variety of questions, some of the more typical ones being where they can be stationed and what follow-on

training is available.

Besides having the opportunity to explore the various Army branches, cadets also visited tents and attended briefings by the Army National Guard and Army Reserve.

Two civilian organizations related to the Army, the Officers Christian Fellowship and the Association of the United States Army, were also on hand to explain what they do and the ways in which they help soldiers.

Besides sending the cadets off with a greater understanding of the various Army branches, they also left with everything from pens and key chains, to notebooks and even backpacks, all emblazoned with the various branches' names and insignia.

Branch Orientation day happens twice during Warrior Forge with the second day happening July 15. For more information on the various branches presented at Branch Orientation, you can check it out www.branchorientation.com 

Cadet Blood Drive saves lives

By 2nd Lt. Douglas Blevins


Another year has arrived and once again the blood drive is here, offering one more chance for cadets to give back to those in need. Each year on Day-30 of Warrior Forge, cadets can give a pint of blood in hopes that it will heeelp save a life somewhere in this world. Starting July 3, Maj. Robin Whitacre and a staff of 20 from the Madigan Blood Bank Donor Center, come to North Ft. Lewis every three days to set up a volunteer blood donor center, not only for cadets, but also cadre members, to give blood.

Anyone who is at least 17 years of age and weighs a minimum of 110 pounds can give blood. The MBBDC has a quota of 75 units a week and their goal for this years' blood drive has been set at 2,000 units, higher than the 1,567 units from last year. That is an average of 142 units per regiment.

"Historically, anywhere from 125 to 150 cadets have given to the drive," says Sgt. 1st. Class Paul Kulvi of the MBBDC. At least half of the cadets from each regiment turn out to contribute but, unfortunately, many are turned away due to various

disqualifications. Some of those include tattoos received in the past 12 months, having a cold within the past 72 hours, medical conditions like heart, liver and kidney disease, pregnant or been pregnant within the past six years or having traveled to Western Europe or the United Kingdom for a period of six months between the 1980 and 1996.

It is important to remember that the military has its own blood supply and all blood that is donated in the Army is used only to assist those in the Army. Soldiers that are currently stationed overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan are in high demand for blood that the Army supplies. Blood is a precious human resource, and seven percent of your body's weight is made up of it.

However, it cannot be manufactured, only donated, and it can save the lives of up to four patients in need of a blood transfusion. Individuals that are in need of blood are cancer, heart disease, gastrointestinal disease, fractures and trauma, anemia, bone and joint abnormalities, organ transplant and lung, liver and kidney disease patients. 

2nd Louie

By Bob Rosenburgh





You CAN get there from here

That's the plot at Land Navigation

A cadet at the Land Navigation course briefs his ideal plan for negotiating the route to fellow cadets ...

Story and photos by
2nd Lt. Douglas Blevins

“Grab your pencil, protractor and poncho because we’re going to the field.” These are the words that ring across the regimental area on Day -10 of leadership training at Warrior Forge 2004.

Each regiment packs up and heads to the field for one night and two days of land navigation training. At night the cadets must complete a three hour and 30 minute course through dense vegetation and acquire three out of five points needed to pass the night portion of the test. During the day each cadet endures a five hour scramble through a little less dense area to claim ownership of at least five of the eight points needed to successfully complete the day portion of the test.

The cadets come from many different



... who then make notes and plan their routes ... schools, backgrounds and training environments, so the Land Navigation Committee staff must ensure that all cadets are equipped with the proper knowledge and equipment they’ll need to pass both the night and day course at Ft. Lewis, Wa. A series of 10 classes are given to the cadets, like map orienteering, compass techniques, pace count and attack points. Third Regiment Cadet Brianna Inglin from the University of Portland said, “The lieutenants out there did an outstanding job at teaching the classes.” Most agreed and thought important that all the cadets are on the “same sheet of music,” so to speak. A cadet’s confidence will help allay any doubts they ave about not finding their point or getting lost.


Prior to starting the day course each cadet receives a colored map of the land navigation area. Additions and subtractions to the map, due to road changes, are adjusted. After receiving their map, they also get a strip of paper with five or eight grid coordinates. Fifteen minutes before departing for the course, the cadets begin plotting those coordinates on the strip of paper. A strategic plan is formulated to get from one point to another in a reasonable

amount of time, but less than the maximum time allotted for the course. When it is time to begin the course, assigned groups are released in ten-minute intervals to avoid integrity issues. While on the course, the cadets can re-check themselves and their location with checkpoints established on the course. The checkpoint is a preset known point with a cadre member posted at that site, but those sites are the only known points given to the cadets prior to starting the course.

Five hours, eight points and two blisters later, the cadets return to their start point with equipment in hand and a smile on their face. They report in with a grader and give back those items they were issued before they left for the course. Afterwards, they move back to their bivouac area and recuperate from a hard day’s work.

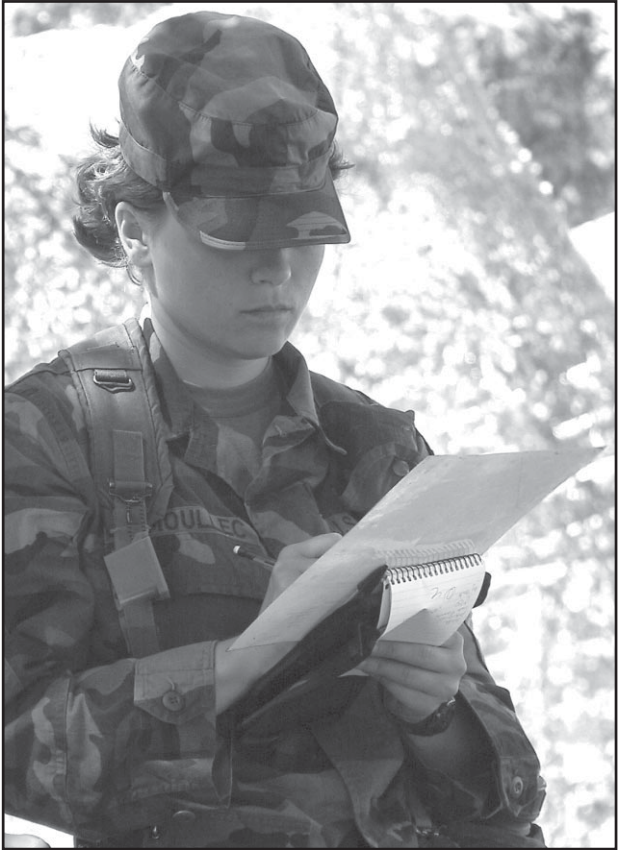
While some cadets aren’t too fond of the field environment, others find it enjoyable to be out in the field doing land navigation. Cadet Ross Ridge from Indiana University said what he enjoyed most about going to land navigation was, “I wasn’t being followed by a TAC.”

Despite their enthusiasm to hide from authority, cadets had only praise for the instruction and guidance they received from the cadre and staff in preparation for Land Navigation. Cadet Samantha Rieger from Wake Forest University said, “They set you up for success with the terrain model and you had enough time.”

Although there wer more tasks at Land Navigation this year than last, an extra retest opportunity was added because the cadre wants every cadet to be successful. 



... then, using tools like the Lensatic compass and military terrain maps, they try to find their way ...



... but sometimes have to re-check their bearings and re-plot the azimuth.



Getting ready is half the battle

By Rebekah Courson

They arrived wearing shorts, t-shirts, tank tops, and baseball caps. It was Inprocessing Day for a regiment of cadets at Operation Warrior Forge 200 and it was their last day for the next 32 days to dress as civilians.

Sgt. Delbert Wells, working at Cadet Inprocessing, said cadets are limited in the types of clothing they’re allowed to wear. The clothes cannot be revealing or offensive and safety is a priority.

“It’s not what they would wear to the beach,” he said. Whatever they arrived in, though, they all went through the same steps during the inprocessing day. When a cadet arrives, whether individually or in groups by van or bus, they first dropp off baggage, go to the holding company, and check in.

Before they begin any paperwork, each is checked to be sure they have multiple copies of their itinerary, orders, any amendments to the orders, ID card or photo ID and a canteen.

Cadets are then allowed to eat and fill their canteens if there is time. Those scheduled to take the flight physical are not able to eat at least 12 hours before the test. Whenever the cadets have a chance to stop, the Warrior Forge staff emphasizes the need for them to relax. 2ndLt. Brandy Morris, a TAC for the 4th Regiment, said the first day was the easiest day and they should take advantage of it. The cadets, though, also understood that they still had to follow proper military behavior and conduct.

“As long as you do things correctly, you’re okay,” said 4th Regiment Cadet Matthew Hovde from Central Washington State. Some cadets, though, were still unsure about how Warrior Forge would be.

“I’m a little anxious,” 6th Regiment cadet Christopher Ballard from Holster University said. “I never went to basic. I never went to any type

of training before.”

Next stop is the the Cadet Personnel Department to start t paperwork. The staff there tried to make them feel at ease.

“The cadets have never had formal training,” Lt. Alex Scott with inprocessing said. “They’re very uptight so you have to throw a few jokes out there.”

During the initial briefing at CPD, the cadets filled out a Hometown News Release form, a cadet profile information form, a checkout sheet and are given a copy of the Warrior Forge Information and Guidebook. They’re checked again for all the necessary paperwork and information before continuing.

They then proceed through four more stations at CPD. The first electronically checks each cadet in. This was also where personal information, such as date of birth, Social Security number and verification if a cadet will sign up for follow-on training were checked. The second station was where the cadet’s travel information was verified.

“We make sure where they’re going so they’re not stranded at the airport,” Wells said. “We also check amendments to their orders so we get them where they’re supposed to go.”

At the third station, the cadet’s records are reviewed. Their insurance and next of kin information is verified and checked by the cadet.

Finally, the fourth station is where the cadet physically signs out of Inprocessing and is issued a 30 minute phone card, copies of the Army values for their ID tags and wallet and ID tags if needed.

When they are done at CPD, they go to another building to fill out an address card to sent home and a cadet regiment information card. With all of the required paperwork, some cadets tried to keep a positive outlook.

“It’s normal Army inprocessing,” 5th Regiment Cadet Kali Candella from Ohio



2nd Lt. Douglas Blevins

Curious and concerned, two cadets look apprehensively at their new equipmen while processing through the Central Issue Facility.

University said. “Just hurry up and wait.”

They then go back to collect their baggage and are released to their new company and platoon cadre. Once a platoon leader takes the cadets to their regiment, they are assigned bunks and can unpack. Cadets are allowed to keep only needed gear, while personal and expensive belongings are put in storage for the rest of training.

Some cadets were already looking forward to the last days of training.

Sixth Regiment Cadet Peggy Hu, from the University of Notre Dame, said she was looking forward to the Squad and Patrolling STX lanes.

“You know you’ve passed everything and you’re going home right after it,” Hu said. “It will be a nice feeling.”



Cadet battles rare disease

By 2nd Lt. Scott Fennell

It all started with a weird lump. And then another. And then another.

Just six months ago, cadet Brad Wesley, from the University of Utah, could hardly recognize his own face in the mirror. Baseball-sized lumps had nearly engulfed both sides of his head and a smaller one appeared on the palm of his left hand. Understandably, Wesley was frightened.

“I just woke up one day and saw this lump on my face. I showed it to my roommates and they thought it was weird. Then it got bigger and some other [lumps] came up too. I went to the hospital, but the doctors had no idea what it was. They thought it might be an infection from cutting myself shaving, or even cancer.”

Wesley would have to wait months before learning what had been happening to him. “The doctors poked a hole through one of the lumps on my neck so they could get bacteria cultures and figure out what was wrong with me. They left the hole open too, so fluid could drain out, and every few hours my roommates had to change the little

gauze strip that plugged the hole.”

Three months after the first lump appeared, Wesley was finally diagnosed: Cat Scratch Fever. “I couldn’t believe it” said Wesley. “I had never heard of anyone having Cat Scratch Fever.”

Indeed, most people assume that Cat Scratch Fever is just a song by Ted Nugent, but it is an actual disease. Technically called Cat Scratch Disease, the illness is a bacterial infection that can be transmitted through the scratches and bites of kittens and, less frequently, dogs. CSD continues to baffle doctors and scientists; very little is known about the underlying microbiology. Some researchers suspect that the bacterium responsible for the infection is rochalimaea henselae, but the verdict is far from unanimous. In the U.S., approximately 22,000 cases are diagnosed annually.

Sufferers of CSD can expect painfully swollen lymph nodes and mono-like symptoms of fatigue and loss of appetite. Adding to the discomfort is the confusion of being infected with such an obscure condition. “The doctors took pictures of me and talked about me in their board meetings and stuff. The bacteriologist said I was only the second case he’s ever seen in his whole career. For

a while, I thought they’d never figure out what was wrong with me and I’d never get better. I was angry a lot.”

Adding to Wesley’s frustration were the lack of treatment options and the rigors of his MS-III year. “I was constantly missing classes to go to the doctor’s. There was nothing I could do because there’s no treatment for CSD. You just have to wait, and it took me over six months to be healthy again. Before I started to get better, I figured I might as well give up on Warrior Forge for this summer and come back after my MS-IV year.”

Wesley consistently maxes the APFT, so anything less than peak physical condition is aggravating for him. “I could hardly run. I had to stop working out for, like, four months.” Through courage and hard work though, Wesley plans to be well-prepared for Warrior Forge. “I’m not worried about the APFT or any of the physical stuff. I don’t until the eleventh regiment, so I’ll be in good shape.”

There is one thing that has the cadet concerned, though. “I hear they have some crazy ants at Lewis.”

